

wage, which was \$2.15 an hour at the time. In September, the company settled the charges by paying \$1 million in back wages.

"That happened five years ago," Wu said through an interpreter. "It's not happening anymore."

Far from Saipan's luxury hotels are what the U.S. Interior Department calls "labor camps," home to 20,000 Asian workers. The fortunate ones get dormitories with bunk beds and communal bathrooms. Others find themselves consigned to squalid shacks without running water, sufficient toilets or proper ventilation.

Young Chinese women spend their days hunched over sewing machines under fluorescent lights. The hours are long and the conditions sometimes harsh, but few complain. They are too deep in debt back home to risk getting fired.

Some Chinese men said they paid \$7,000 apiece for construction jobs, while Chinese seamstresses are charged from \$3,000 to \$4,000 each for passage here—often as much as they will earn in a year after paying taxes and fees for room and board. The money goes to Chinese government middlemen, who secure passports and arrange jobs.

Once here, guest workers are vulnerable to exploitation. Human-rights advocates say many guest workers endure unpaid work, forced overtime, withheld wages and unsafe workplaces.

A seamstress from southern China said she is forced to work seven days a week at Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., one of the largest factories, with nearly 300 workers. Occasionally, she said, she can take a half-day off on Sunday to wash her clothes or write letters. Several workers said the garment factory, controlled by Hong Kong and mainland Chinese investors, would not grant overtime unless the women met their daily quotas. Typically, if a worker falls behind, she must reach her quota on her own time just to qualify for time-and-a-half overtime pay.

Steve Yim, a Hong Kong-based management consultant for Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., confirmed that workers must meet their quotas before they can earn overtime but denied that women work for no pay in order to fill their daily quotas.

"I'm not aware of it," Yim said, adding that no one was forced to work overtime, "but if they are willing to work seven days, we don't prohibit them. We can't stop them."

Guest workers are reluctant to speak out, because they know their employers can send them packing with one day's notice.

"It's not a job market where if they don't like it, they can leave," said Gregoire, the human rights worker. "You're going to sit there and endure whatever you have to endure." Most workers from China are required to sign contracts with the Chinese government, vowing to obey the laws of the United States, Northern Mariana Islands—and China.

A two-year contract for one Chinese carpenter forbids him from engaging in "any political or religious activity." He cannot take drugs, watch "sex movies," fight, get drunk or "fall in love or get married." Some garment-industry executives say conditions are improving as manufacturers become more attuned to American labor practices.

Eloy Inos, an executive with Tan Holdings Corp., the largest garment-maker on Saipan, said the garment factories help create ancillary work in shipping, insurance and other support services. He said some problems had been caused by Asian manufacturers' unfamiliarity with U.S. labor standards.

"They've since learned and have changed a lot, although at times the changes were painful," Inos said.

But restrictive labor practices persist in many garment factories here, despite limited reforms and continued pressure by human-rights groups. Recently, Chinese women were forbidden by their employer from attending a Christian church. The church's Korean pastor had to remind the South Korean factory manager that people in the United States are free to practice religion.

At another South Korean garment company—formerly S.R. Corp., now Coral Fashion Inc.—workers were told that they could leave their barracks only twice a week for one hour. Violators "will be barred from going out the barracks indefinitely," the company wrote in a notice posted on Feb. 6, 1997. The factory has since been warned by local officials that it is against the law in the United States to lock up one's workers.

FOOD CHECK-OUT DAY

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Monday, February 9th, was "Food Check-Out Day." "Food Check-Out Day" marks the day when most Americans have earned enough money to pay for all the food they will consume for the year. American families spend just 10.9 percent of their disposable income for food compared to 15 percent in France, 18 percent in Germany and 33 percent in Mexico.

Besides supplying the country with an affordable food supply, the American farmer provides jobs to workers off the farm. For each dollar spent on food in this country, only 23 cents goes to the farmer; 77 cents goes to food marketing, processing, retailing, generating thousands of jobs for American workers. In my State of Nebraska, 1 out of 4 jobs are tied to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the farmers and ranchers from my State. Without their hard work and dedication to agriculture, the United States would not have the safest, let me reiterate the safest, and most affordable food supply in the world.

CHRISTA CARPENTER'S AWARD WINNING ESSAY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the following essay with our colleagues. It was written by one of my constituents, Ms. Christa Carpenter, and won first place in the March for Life national essay contest commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of legalized abortion in the United States. I believe she presents a compelling argument in support of the sanctity of all human life.

WE MARCH ON FOR LIFE AND TRUTH

God's truth is eternal, absolute, universal, and impartial. It is our most powerful weapon in the battle to end abortion. During the past twenty-five years of the murdering of our brothers and sisters, His truth has been marching on in the pro-life movement.

Our Faith tells us that a pre-born baby, from the moment of fertilization, possesses a

soul, and is created in the image and likeness of God. Despite the physical condition of the baby, or the circumstances of conception, all are equal in the sight of God. Whether deformed, retarded, black or white, protectors of life must keep in mind that Christ's truth is without exception, and all pre-born babies possess the right to life. There are no exceptions, no compromises, when it comes to the life of ANY baby.

The Catholic Church proclaims that all men are "obliged to honor and bear witness to the truth". In fact, it is our duty to defend the pre-born. St. Thomas Aquinas states, "As a matter of honor, one man owes it to another to manifest the truth."

Abortion is a direct violation of the truth. The entire platform of the pro-abortion movement is based on lies. Their many statements such as "It's a woman's body"; "It's a blob of tissue"; "The mother's life is at stake" are attempts to justify the murder of a pre-born human being. Abortion can never be justified, for everyone knows in his conscience that it is wrong.

These remarks have been proven wrong by people who have LIVED Christ's truth. The most vivid example in my mind happened two years ago during my Mother's crisis pregnancy, when her water broke and she went into labor prematurely. The doctors refused to give her medical treatment to help save my twenty-week old pre-born brother, John Paul. They said my Mother would die if the pregnancy continued, and declared she should have the abortion for the "sake of the mother".

With the help of many friends, Mom was able to stay at home, never leaving her bed for ninety-three days. Our family endured many trials to keep my brother alive. We were rewarded when he was delivered at thirty-three weeks, for this was long after the time the doctors said he would be dead. He lived twenty-three hours, and received Baptism and Confirmation before he went "straight to Heaven". Many in the world took our experience for a failure, but we take comfort in the fact that John Paul is a saint, and sees God "face to face". Thanks to the truth we learned from those in the pro-life movement, we know Christ's truth. It conquered the lies of the pro-death world in the case of my Mother. She is living proof that the "life of the mother" exception is just an excuse to kill a baby.

Defenders of life, world-wide, have shown their commitment to the truth by sacrificing their time and comfort for the abolition of the Massacre of the Innocents. Actively they protest at abortion clinics, and present the pro-life message at every opportunity: on television, in newspapers, on radio, and in schools.

More often than not, we never see the "fruits" of our endeavors. Some say our efforts in the pro-life movement will never be able to stop the mass murder of children throughout the world. Yet, whether representatives of His truth are the majority or the minority; whether abortion increases or stops entirely; whether we have no political support or have the help of the entire government; His TRUTH will perpetually reign supreme. When it comes to the life of a baby, all know that a baby is a child created in the image and likeness of God, and abortion is the murder of that precious infant.

This battle may ensue for our lifetime or for the next generation to come, but His truth will ultimately "set us free" from the evil of abortion. Advocates of life, take heart: for as His truth is marching on, our God is marching with us.

CONGRATULATING DONNA
WEINBRECHT—OUR GOOD WILL
AMBASSADOR OF THE SLOPES

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of New Jersey to congratulate Olympic legend Donna Weinbrecht of West Milford, New Jersey, on an outstanding career. She is a mentor and role model for our young people and a credit to our nation for her excellence in all she does. This young woman from New Jersey is an inspiration to both athletes and non-athletes alike. Her sterling character, hard work, unending dedication and thorough mastery of her sport make her a role model for young people across our nation.

Donna—the world-renowned “Queen of the Moguls”—competed in her final Olympic freestyle race today. Despite a rash of injuries, including a very sore knee, Donna skied her way into the finals on Sunday and today came extremely close to a second career Olympic medal, with a fast and clean run to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, Donna has been the “foundation” of the U.S. freestyle team for 11 years. Over her career she won an Olympic Gold Medal, seven U.S. titles and five World Cup Championships. These championship performances are what has earned her the international reputation as the “Queen of the Moguls.”

But her impact on her sport goes beyond trophies and honors. She has also served as the sport’s “goodwill ambassador.” Due in large part to Donna’s energetic promotion of freestyle skiing—or “the bumps”—we have the opportunity to watch this exciting form of skiing at the Olympics and around the world.

While Donna is the “Queen of the Moguls,” her mother, Caroline Weinbrecht, calls herself the “Queen of the Screams” for her style in cheering on her daughter.

Caroline and Jim Weinbrecht stayed home from their daughter’s trip to Japan this year because both have health problems that would have made the 14-hour trip difficult. They were with Donna when she won the gold in Albertville in 1992, however, and her brother and sister, Jim and Joy, are in Nagano. They are a family that is always there for each other.

Donna was born April 23, 1965, in Hoboken and now resides in West Milford. Donna won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for women’s freestyle mogul skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games. Nine months later, she suffered a severe knee injury while training for the next ski season. Many experts didn’t expect her to ski competitively again, but with disciplined training and extra effort she came back to win the World Cup in 1994 and 1996. Those are the traits of character and dedication that will bring her continued success in whatever future life endeavor course she chooses.

The 5-foot-4 skier has known a lifetime of achievements. The highlight, of course, was taking the Gold Medal in Freestyle Mogul Skiing at the 1992 Olympic Games in Albertville. In 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1996, she was both the World Cup and U.S. National Champion in the same event. She took the U.S. title in 1988 and 1989.

She has won 46 Gold, 12 Silver, 12 Bronze World Cup Medals. She was named “International and U.S. Female Freestyle Skier of the Year” by Ski Racing Magazine in 1996; “International Sportswoman of the Year” finalist in 1993; Women Sports Foundation’s 1996 “Ski Athlete of the Year”; the United States Olympic Committee’s “Amateur Athlete of the Year” for 1990–1992; and one of the Women Sports Foundation’s “Outstanding Amateur Athletes in America” for 1990–1992. She was a member of the Amateur Athletic Union in 1990–1992.

Donna’s hometown of West Milford has been enthusiastically cheering on their favorite skier. Students at Apschawa Elementary School e-mailed messages to Donna earlier this week and Olympic flags hang outside several neighbors’ homes. Local schools have shown students videos of her past performances. At West Milford High School, where she was a high school skier, a mural on the gymnasium wall commemorates her 1992 Olympic victory.

My Congressional colleagues and I join Donna’s family, the residents of High Crest Lake in West Milford, the citizens of New Jersey and, indeed, all of our nation in saluting our Olympic champion. Donna will always be a “gold medal champion” in our hearts. She has carried our flag proudly.

TRIBUTE TO TALLER SAN JOSE (ST. JOSEPH’S WORKSHOP)

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Taller San Jose (St. Joseph’s Workshop) for offering hope to the Latino youth who seek a productive, self-reliant future. The young people who come to Taller San Jose are looking for a second chance to “work on their lives”. The students are male and female, 18 and over, and bilingual. They have usually dropped out of school, often more than once; have one or more children; want to finish school; and seek job training in order to become productive adults.

The program includes life skills and mentoring, GED preparation, computer literacy, clerical skills, nursing assistant training, and wood-working. All classes are designed for participants to develop job ready skills and behaviors which translate into accountability and responsibility. The program also offers classes to the larger community such as English as a Second Language at the basic and intermediate levels.

Taller San Jose, which has been open for 2½ years, was a recent recipient of the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. This award recognizes exemplary uses of Community Development Block Grant funds which address the needs of families, homes and neighborhoods. TSJ was recognized as one of six in the nation to receive this national award in 1998.

IN HONOR OF PHILIP J. GARONE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip J. Garone, a beloved member of the Greenpoint, Brooklyn community who recently passed away.

Mr. Garone, a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, was one of six sons born to Angelina and Angelo-Charles Garone in 1911. When Philip’s father passed away, Philip began working after school to help support his family. This dedication to his family continued throughout his life.

Philip Garone also had a passion for music. He began playing the saxophone at an early age and was soon sought after by music great Tommy Dorsey. After working as a lithographer in the printing industry, Philip would play the sax at Greenwich Village clubs with famous musicians such as Gene Crooper and Sam “the man” Taylor.

In 1936, Philip married Virginia Torre at St. Francis De Paola Church. Together they had three daughters, Angela, RoseAnn and Phyllis, and lived on Lombardy Street in Greenpoint. Throughout their 23 years marriage, Philip was urged by many musicians to go on the road with his music. Again, his dedication to his family kept him close to home.

Philip and Virginia were married for 23 years until Virginia’s tragic death from cancer in 1959 at the age of 42. Five years later, Philip met and married Angie DeLuca.

In Philip’s 60 year musical career he played for community events, politicians, feasts, dances, block parties, and neighborhood weddings. In recent years he began playing for senior citizen groups at the Garity Post and the Swinging Sixties.

On April 13, 1997, Philip Garone died of a massive stroke at the age of 86. The silence of his saxophone is felt throughout the Greenpoint community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Philip Garone, a very talented and devoted man who contributed to his community with the beauty of his music and his devotion to his family and neighbors. He is greatly missed.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, PRESIDENT MENEM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, Argentine President Carlos Menem will attend a special showing of “The Elixir of Love” at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. With all due respect to tenor Ramone Vargas, there are far more important voices for President Menem to hear in New York.

He should hear the voice of Americans angry about the failure of his government to bring anti-semitic terrorists to justice. In 1992, the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed. Two years later, the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was car-bombed. Not a single person has been convicted of these crimes.